

INTERAGENCY CLASSIFICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20408

December 6, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR:

John S. Warner
Acting General Counsel

FROM:

William L. Brown *WLB*
Executive Director

SUBJECT:

CIA Inspection Program to Determine
— Classification abuses.

As you may recall, at its November meeting, the ICRC authorized me to request a report from each agency on its departmental inspection program set up for the purpose of determining the classification abuses to be reported on the Quarterly Report of Classification Abuses form (SF 322). On 18 July 1973, the CIA submitted such a report in response to discussions at the July meeting concerning a draft of the request. The CIA's initiative in responding to this request, even before there was a firm requirement to do so, is appreciated.

The CIA's report on its "spot check" program has been reviewed and it is apparent that the program needs to be strengthened. Otherwise, the reliability of the number of classification abuses being reported quarterly to the ICRC by the CIA could be subject to some doubt. To fail to establish a satisfactory program creates a potential situation whereby the CIA will never be able to report reliable figures on the number of classification abuses within the agency thereby frustrating the primary purpose of the reporting format which is to allow the ICRC to assist the National Security Council in monitoring the implementation of Executive Order 11652 and the implementing NSC Directive of May 17, 1972. Such monitoring allows the ICRC to determine whether an agency is complying with the mandates of the Order and Directive or not and, if not, to "take action to ensure compliance." It is, therefore, requested that the CIA please reevaluate its program in order to determine if it is possible to meet more fully the requirements of the ICRC's quarterly reporting system with respect to the reporting of classification abuses.

The CIA's past record of cooperation is appreciated. I will be happy to discuss this matter further if I can be of any assistance.